

Intimations.

SPECIAL TELEGRAM!!!

A SPECIAL TELEGRAM has been received from the Head Office of the **EQUITABLE LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY** of the United States, giving figures (Sterling) showing the outlines of the Society's business during 1895. These are as follows:—

| 1895. | 1894. |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| ASSETS.....£11,876,960 | ASSETS.....£9,660,898 |
| SURPLUS.....£ 8,469,880 | SURPLUS.....£ 7,787,459 |

Accepted New Business, £27,510,860

Improvement during Year 1895:

| | |
|--------------------------|------------|
| INCREASE IN ASSETS..... | £3,326,058 |
| INCREASE IN SURPLUS..... | £ 675,877 |

A LARGE SURPLUS IS THE BEST TEST OF STRENGTH AND GUARANTEE OF FUTURE BONUSES.

These figures show a MARKED IMPROVEMENT ALL ROUND ON THOSE OF THE PREVIOUS YEAR, and point to the CONTINUOUS SUCCESS and PROSPERITY that have marked the Society's proceedings from its infancy.

HEAD OFFICE:—120, BROADWAY, NEW YORK.

President:

HENRY B. HYDE.

Vice-Presidents:

JAS. W. ALEXANDER, SAMUEL BORROWE, G. E. TARBELL, G. T. WILSON.

LONDON OFFICE:—81, CHEAPSIDE, E.C.

Trustees for Great Britain and Ireland:

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE THE EARL OF DENBIGH;
THE RIGHT HONOURABLE THE EARL OF KINTORE.

EASTERN BRANCH:

HEAD OFFICE:—No. 6, THE BUND, SHANGHAI.

Medical Director:

L. S. LITTLE, Esq., B.A., M.D., F.R.C.S. (Eng.)

Chief Medical Examiner in Shanghai:

R. J. SLOAN, Esq., M.D.

Sub-Manager:

W. H. TALBOT, Esq.

General Agent:

J. A. BALLARD, Esq.

AGENTS:

| | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| NEWCHANG..... | WILLIAM FORBES & Co. |
| CHEFOO..... | BUSH BROTHERS. |
| HANKOW..... | CORNABE & Co. |
| WUHU..... | GREAVES & Co. |
| CHINKIANG..... | GEO. MCBAIN, Esq. |
| NINGPO..... | WADLEIGH & EMERY. |
| YOKOHAMA..... | BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE. |
| Kobe..... | W. M. STRACHAN & Co. |
| NAGASAKI..... | HOLMEYER, RINGER & Co. |
| TOKIO and OSAKA..... | TAKATA & Co. |
| FOO CHOW..... | BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE. |
| AMOI..... | LAPRAIK, CASS & Co. |
| SWATOW..... | BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE. |
| HONGKONG..... | SHEWAN & Co. |
| CANTON (SHAMEN)..... | SHEWAN & Co. |

J. T. HAMILTON,
General Manager for the East.

Shanghai, 4th February, 1896.

Intimations.

DAKIN, CRUICKSHANK &
COMPANY, LIMITED,
VICTORIA DISPENSARY,
HONGKONG.

AERATED WATERS.

SIMPLE AERATED WATER.
SODA WATER.
LEMONADE.
GINGER ALE.
SARSAPARILLA.
RASPBERRYADE, &c.

DAKIN, CRUICKSHANK & Co.'s WATERS are made under the constant supervision of a duly qualified English Chemist and will bear comparison with the best English Manufactures. Special terms to HOTELS, CLUBS, MESSERS and other Large Consumers. Any complaints should be addressed to the Manager.

Hongkong, 3rd May, 1895.

A. S. WATSON & CO.,
LIMITED.

ESTABLISHED A.D. 1841.

WINE AND SPIRITS.

ALL these are selected by our London House, bought direct at first hand, imported in wood and bottled by ourselves, thus saving all intermediate profits, and enabling us to supply the best goods at MODERATE PRICES.

PRICE LISTS.

with Full Details, to be had on Application.

PORT after removal should be rested a month before use. When required for drinking at once it should be ordered to be decanted at the Dispensary before being sent out.

SHERRY.—Excellent Dinner and After Dinner. Wines of very superior Vintages. All are true Xeres Wines.

CLARET.—Our Claret, including the lowest priced, are guaranteed to be the genuine product of the juice of the grape and are not artificially made from raisins and currents, as is generally the case with Cheap Wines.

BRANDY.—All our Brandy is guaranteed to be pure Cognac, the difference in price being merely a question of age and vintage.

WHISKY.—All our Whisky is of excellent quality and of greater age than most brands in the market. The SCOTCH WHISKY marked "E" is universally popular, and is pronounced by the best local connoisseurs to be superior to any other brand in the Hongkong market.

We only guarantee our WINE and SPIRITS to be genuine when bought direct from us in the Colony or from our authorized Agents at the Coast Ports.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LD.
THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY,
Hongkong, 10th January, 1896.

BIRTHS.
At "Ewa," Shanghai, on the 21st instant, the wife of A. P. MILLER, of a son.
At No. 4, Miller Road, Shanghai, on the 11th instant, the wife of G. A. F. SCHMIDT, of a son.
At Shanghai, on the 10th instant, the wife of W. SWAN, Esq., of a daughter.

DEATH.
On the 27th December, 1895, at Laoko-Kou, (old Hankow) China, ANNIE M. PARSONS, wife of Albert-George Parson, M.R.C.S. (Eng.) L.R.C.P. (London). Aged 40.

THE HONGKONG TELEGRAPH
HONGKONG, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1896.

SANITARY AFFAIRS.

We note a steady increase in the number of plague cases occurring daily, and in the number of families and individuals segregated in the marriage-boats at the back of Stone-cutters' Island. It is time that some very definite steps were taken to deal with this disease and to protect the Colony and its trade from the fatal effects of it. Already our ships and steamers have been quarantined in the ports of one nation, and it is useless to expect that we can keep from the knowledge of other nations the actual position of affairs. The Consul resident here are too vigilant and too intelligent.

In 1894, the policy adopted by the Sanitary Board involved the removal, at the earliest possible moment, of all persons attacked by plague (or reasonably suspected of being affected by it) from their dwellings either to the Hospital or to an observation ward, the destruction of all bedding and clothing in use by the sufferers, and the prompt fumigation, cleansing, and disinfecting of their rooms or houses. This necessitated a vigorous search, continued daily, and carried on simultaneously throughout the city, and the prohibition of any movement of the sick or dead except under supervision and to the

appointed places. Later on, the inhabitants of the chief plague-district were moved en masse, with the happiest effects, to other houses in a different quarter of the city, and permission was accorded the sick who desired it, and were in a fit state to bear the journey, to go to Canton, proper precautions being taken to prevent them spreading infection en route, and to disinfect all launches and conveyances. The prompt segregation of the sick is still recognised as essential to prevent the spread of the disease. What steps are the Government taking to ascertain at the earliest possible moment who has been attacked? Is there any regular visitation of and search in the quarters of the town most likely to be affected? We fear not.

From the information reaching us from many sources we are inclined to believe that for every case that comes to the notice of the Authorities there are three or four they never hear of. Persons attacked are hurried out of the Colony at the first suspicion of the disease, and sent off to some village on the mainland or to Canton. That is very good in its way if they go far enough from the Colony, but such people leave behind them in their houses the germs and seeds of the disease, and the Sanitary Board has no means of knowing and therefore no chance of attacking the evil with fumigations and disinfectants; no opportunity of segregating for a time the other inhabitants of the houses. There can be no objection to the prompt removal from the Colony of all plague patients provided that they go far enough away (20 miles was the limit fixed by the Medical Commission that sat last year), that the chairs, boats, and other conveyances they use are carefully disinfected, and that the authorities have notice of the case so as to take all proper precautions against the spread of the infection among the relatives and neighbours of the sick. But without those precautions it would be folly to allow the indiscriminate departure of the sick. The Government would lose all count and have no means of judging of the true progress of the disease, and every patient who went away would leave behind him in his dwelling, or deposit during his transit, the fatal taint of the disease.

It seems to us that things have arrived at such a state that the Government ought to be prepared at all points to deal with the plague as with a possible epidemic, and should make known, for the information of the public, the principles on which it intends to proceed and the Rules and Regulations to be observed. Nothing is to be gained by secrecy, and it will be impossible to continue much longer the plan adopted since first the disease reappeared among us of segregating the residents of the houses in which the disease has manifested itself. If the plague begins to spread the number of people to be provided for in this way will soon be too great to handle.

TELEGRAMS.

REUTERS' MESSAGES.

DISCOVERY OF THE NORTH POLE.
LONDON, February 16th.
The British Consul at Archangel telegraphs that Dr. Nansen is returning after having reached the North Pole.

THE UNITED STATES FREE COINAGE BILL.
The House of Representatives has rejected the Free Coinage Bill which the Senate substituted for the proposed Bond Bill.

(Special to China Gazette.)
LI HUNG-CHANG ORDERED TO ST. PETERSBURG.

PEKING, February 11th.
An Imperial Decree orders Li Hung-chang to proceed as Special Envoy to St. Petersburg to represent the Chinese Emperor at the coronation of the Czar's Coronation. He takes with him many costly presents and will leave here as soon as navigation opens.

THE MARQUIS ITO WILL GO ALSO.

TOKYO, February 11th.
It is now an open secret, and is regarded as settled, that the Japanese Premier will go to St. Petersburg in time for the coronation ceremonies.

(From Japanese papers.)
CALLING THE PREMIER TO ORDER.

TOKYO, February 11th.
In the Lower House to-day Mr. Otake Kanichi moved the adjournment of the House until the Premier was prepared to appear in his place. The Premier, he stated, was delayed yesterday to attend the House to-day, and had not complied with the request.

The motion was rejected.
Mr. Inokai Ki Ikeruppon moved a resolution expressing the opinion that the absence of Marquis Ito was tantamount to a neglect of his duty to the State.

This motion was also rejected by a majority of 44—the voting being 104 against 28.
Subsequently the House sat in camera to discuss a matter arising out of the proceedings discussed in secret by the House the previous day.

RESIGNATION OF THE HOME MINISTER.

TOKYO, February 11th.
Viscount Nomura, Minister for Home Affairs, has been granted permission to resign his office. The duties of the office will be discharged temporarily by Mr. Yoshikawa, Minister for Justice. The Premier had an audience with the Emperor this morning.
The resignation of Viscount Nomura is believed to be partly due to disapproval of the compact made with the Jiyu-to, as he holds a strong opinion against any of the Jiyu party being appointed governors of prefectures as has been proposed. He is also said to have been influenced by the reduction of the subsidy to the Hokkaido Coal Mining & Railway Co., carried out this day, to which he has been opposed by the Premier to resign.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

On account of the unsettled state of the weather the final tie for the Football Cup will not be played till the 7th proximo.

A Cotton-spinning Company with a capital of half a million yen is about to commence business in Yamato prefecture (Japan).

THE annual general meeting of the Green Island Cement Co., Ltd., will be held at the office of the General Managers, Messrs. Shaw & Co., at noon to-morrow.

Messrs. Carmichael & Co., through their solicitor, Mr. E. H. Grist, this morning pleaded guilty to keeping an improper register of sales of arms, and were fined in the sum of \$20 by the Police Magistrate.

NEARLY one thousand Chinese were summoned at the Police Court to-day at 2 o'clock, for firing crackers during the New Year holidays in prohibited hours. They were fined sums varying from \$1 to \$5 each.

AT the Chess Club's rooms last night Mr. DA Soora (of Mr. V. H. Descoe's office) played Colonel The O'Gorman, and won the match, thus taking from the gallant Colonel the Championship and the Cup recently presented by the Hon. F. E. Pollock.

We read in the *Kobe Chronicle* that Mr. Nabeshima, now manager of the San Francisco branch of the Yokohama Specie Bank, is to be transferred to Hongkong, and Mr. Aoki, who recently returned from London, left by the *City of Peking* to take charge of the branch at San Francisco.

COMMENCING to-morrow the Mails by the French

| | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Circulars..... | 7.30 a.m. |
| Registration..... | 8.00 .. |
| Newspapers..... | 8.30 .. |
| Letters..... | 9.00 .. |
| Late Letters..... | 9.10 to 9.30 a.m. |

We note that many of the English newspapers consider that the British Navy has not yet reached the position of being equal to the navies of any two of the Great Powers, and they are now urging the Government to devote £5,000,000, which the Chancellor of the Exchequer expects as a surplus on the year's estimated revenue, to increasing the fleet.

TO-MORROW (Wednesday) being the eve of the Races "Early Bird" (who was down at the Course at 6 o'clock this morning and obtained a number of interesting "times" including Belling's 13 mile in 3.45—going easy at the finish; Bellman's 13 in 3.46—hard ridden; Standard's 13 in 3.06; and Son of a Gun's 13 in 3.11) will then have a good deal to say about the cracks, and wind up with tips for the first day's races.

THE semi-final tie between the Football Club and the *Centurions*, for the Football Challenge Cup, was played yesterday, and resulted, after a hard struggle, in favour of the Navy by two goals to nil. This contest was, we regret to learn, marred by a sad accident, whereby Mr. Oliver, of the Club team, had his leg broken below the knee by a "hack" just before time was called. The issue now lies between the *Centurions* and the Kowloon Club.

THE Roanoke "spy ship," otherwise the *Vladimir Monomach*, left here to-day bound for Singapore. The three Lieutenants on board this famous frigate who were fired in the Police Court yesterday for trespassing in a most reprehensible manner within the field-works of Kowloon Dock, were, doubtless, as their fine vessel glided gracefully away to the southward, inclined to admit that distance, under certain conditions, leads immense enchantment to the view.

Messrs. Wm. G. Hale & Co. in their *Circular* dated Saigon 8th February report that the Tonkin rice crop will be a short one; very short in some provinces. There are estimates as low as 50 per cent of average yield. Prices fluctuate as the China demand requires, but the tendency is towards an advance. There have been several enquiries for Home shipments, but present prices are prohibitive.

"H's Champion Now" is the head-line under which the Yokohama Box holds forth thusly:—When in Hongkong we met genial "Billy" Farmer, as everybody down there called him, and while he is built on lines as fine as any yacht we have ever seen, and has a figure-head as handsome as a yellow wagon, we never took him to be a billiard player, but we learn that Sweet William is a dandy, and that he holds the championship of Hongkong. If he ever comes up this way he will most likely be knocked out in great shape.

MEMORANDA.

TO-MORROW, 18th February.
The Transfer books of Humphreys' Estate and Finance Co., Ltd., will be closed from this date to the 26th inst., inclusive.

9 a.m.—French Mail closes.

Noon.—Meeting of shareholders of the China Fire Insurance Co., Ltd., No. 3, Queen's Road Central.

Noon.—Meeting of shareholders of the Green Island Cement Co., Ltd., at No. 9, Praya Central.

Noon.—Embassy of India leaves for Vancouver, via usual ports of call.

2.30 p.m.—Auction of household furniture, etc., at Mr. F. E. Lamont's sales rooms, Duddell Street.

9 p.m.—Meeting of Zealand Lodge.

THURSDAY, 20th February.
11.45 a.m.—Local Banks and Insurance offices close.

Noon.—Jockey Club Races.

FRIDAY, 21st February.
11.45 a.m.—Local Banks and Insurance offices close.

Noon.—Jockey Club Races.

SATURDAY, 22nd February.
The Transfer books of the Hongkong Hotel Co., Ltd., close from this date to the 26th prox., inclusive.

11.45 a.m.—Local Banks and Insurance offices close.

Noon.—Jockey Club Races.

Noon.—Paris leaves for San Francisco, via usual ports of call.

9.30 p.m.—Repitition of "Trial by Jury" by the A. D. C. at the Theatre Royal, City Hall.

SUNDAY, 23rd February.
9 a.m.—Homes will proceed to Macao as usual, weather permitting.

THE share-register of Humphreys' Estate and Finance Co., Ltd. will be closed from to-morrow until the 26th inst., both days inclusive.

TO-MORROW at noon the annual meeting of the China Fire Insurance Co., Ltd., will be held at the Company's office, No. 3, Queen's Road Central.

A JAPANESE firm at Newchwang has addressed a memorial to the members of the House of Representatives, representing the need for a Japanese Consulate at Newchwang.

A VERY destructive fire occurred in Yokohama a few days ago. It broke out in a building that was being erected for the Methodist Episcopal Mission at the extreme end of the Western Bluff, and appears to have been caused, as is so frequently the case, by the carelessness of workmen, who made a huge fire of logs in the workshop and lay down to sleep beside it. The wind sprang up in the night, and the fire was communicated, it is supposed, to some shavings, with the result that the shed was soon ablaze and the main building also. The wind being strong, the residence of the Rev. H. Loomis next caught fire; the reverend gentleman and his family having barely time to effect their escape, and losing everything save three small trunks. Mr. Alexander Clark's house was the next to go, and, says the *Yokohama Mail*, in quick succession the houses occupied by the Rev. W. S. Worden, Rev. J. G. Cleveland, and Messrs. G. F. Gordon, L. Ph. von Hemert, F. de Ross, V. F. Baradas and R. Schaffner, were destroyed. The loss incurred is said to be very great, and is only partly covered by insurance. The police have despatched for examination six carpenters who were sleeping in the workshop.

THE MASONIC BALL.

THE JUBILEE OF MASONRY IN HONGKONG.

Fifty years ago, on the 31st December, 1845, the few Freemasons then resident in the New Colony of Hongkong held a meeting at which it was decided to petition the English Grand Lodge for a warrant for the constitution of a Lodge in Hongkong. A year previously a Lodge had been formed in Canton—the Royal Sussex, 735—but owing to the troubles and out of the Opium War the brethren were much scattered. However, among those then resident in Hongkong were the Master and Wardens of that Lodge, who heartily backed up the application for a warrant. On the 24th of June following the warrant of the Grand Lodge, dated March 21st, 1846, was received and Zealand Lodge duly constituted, this being the starting point of Freemasonry in Hongkong. From this as a foundation the present vast and far-reaching organization in the Far East has sprung, no fewer than 100,000 members having passed through the oldest Lodge during the past fifty years, to make no mention of countless hundreds who have passed through other local Lodges. This year being the Jubilee of this noteworthy event the members of Zealand Lodge resolved to celebrate the occasion in a fitting manner, but, Charly being one of the corner-stones of the organization, it was at the same time decided that the Craft as a whole should be allowed to take part in the festivities, which it was ultimately agreed should take the form of a Ball, the net proceeds to go to the Masonic Benevolence Fund. Thus it was that the grand fête held last night in the City Hall was arranged to celebrate the Jubilee of Masonry in Hongkong and of Zealand Lodge. As action is a characteristic of Masons the world over, the resolution above mentioned was no sooner agreed to than steps were taken to give effect to it. An able committee of Stewards was appointed, who carefully distributed the various duties among their members, with the inevitable result, when all organization and hearty co-operation are found side by side, that the Ball which was given last night was a thorough success, and will long be remembered as taking the premier position of all kindred jubilees in the Colony, and rendering future efforts to equal or surpass it difficult in the extreme.

To the eyes of the initiated the City Hall yesterday was a colossal display of the glories of Masonry, which the eye did not understand the significance of the various emblems the spectacle was wrought out in grandeur to the extreme. From end to end, and in all parts, the building bristled with trophies and decorations of mysterious meaning. Over the entrance, which had been covered in owing to the inclemency of the weather, burned an enormous five-pointed star enclosing the letter "G," a Masonic emblem. Inside from the threshold to the stair-case the hall was laid with a Masonic floor-cloth, while the walls did not escape in due form the gentlemen's cloak and dressing rooms being on either side, the City Library being converted for the nonce into a comfortable smoking-room. At each side the colonnades were decorated with shields, flags and other emblems of the Craft, and festooned with greenery and exquisite flowers. At the foot of the stairs were two massive gilt pillars, surmounted with globe, with the square and compasses suspended between them. The stairs were covered with soft crimson carpeting, magnificent ferns and shapely palms, together with choice potted plants being arranged in a deep bank on either side. The half-way landing was indeed a work of art; a W. M. pedestal, with all the fittings—step, cushion, rough and smooth, with silver Square and Compasses and crossed swords on it, was placed in the centre facing the main entrance, while above was a huge mirror. Above this, with another and smaller set of mystic significance, the windows, tastefully decorated, being further decorated with shields and banners. Four fine life-sized emblematical pictures, Virtue, Justice, Temperance and Prudence, occupied positions above the stairway, these, with countless minor ornaments complete a grand and never-to-be-forgotten picture. The lavish distribution of coloured incense and lighting up much enhanced the beauty of the scene. On the upper floor, too, the careful work of the Decoration Committee was much in evidence. The ante-rooms to St. George's Hall had been converted into luxurious waiting rooms, the outer one being utilised further as a ladies refreshment room, wherein various "cups," beer-tan and ices were provided. Other resting places were provided by covering in the verandah which, hung as they were with bright coloured flags, plentifully supplied with seats, and not too brilliantly lighted, made ideal resorts for a *non-utile*. In St. George's Hall itself the decorations were neat and effective. The carvices and walls were hung with shields and flags, while the familiar words, indicating the principles of the Craft, were inscribed in white letters on scarlet ground beneath the cornices. At the south (Queen's) end of the hall was an imposing monument of Masonic regalia and banners, the District Grand Lodge and Zealand Lodge sharing the honours, every other Lodge in the district being, however, represented about the pedestal, the whole flanked by magnificent pillars, and being effective in the highest degree.

Today's Advertisements.

NAVAL CONTRACT, 1896-97.

SEALED TENDERS, in Duplicate, will be received by the NAVAL STOREKEEPER, H.M. NAVAL YARD, until 10 A.M. on FRIDAY, the 28th instant, from Persons desirous of Supplying the undermentioned Articles for the use of H.M. NAVY for the year 1896-97:—
BISCUIT,
SOFT BREAD,
FLOUR,
FRESH BEEF,
FRESH VEGETABLES,
FRESH POTATOES,
WATER for Drinking and Boilers.

Printed Forms of Tenders and further Particulars can be obtained at the NAVAL STOREKEEPER'S OFFICE.
The right to reject the lowest of any Tender is reserved.
Hongkong Victualling Yard, 18th February, 1896.

HONGKONG G. CANTON AND MACAO STEAMBOAT COMPANY, LIMITED.
SPECIAL SUNDAY EXCURSION TO MACAO.

WEATHER Permitting, the Steamer "HONAM" will leave for MACAO next SUNDAY, the 23rd instant, at 9 A.M., and on the return trip will leave MACAO at 10 P.M. The PROCESSION of the CROSS will take place in Macao in the Afternoon.

FARE there and back, \$2. No Single or Second Class Fares.
TICKETS may be obtained at the COMPANY'S OFFICE or on the Steamer before she leaves.
T. ARNOLD, Secretary.
Hongkong, 18th February, 1896.

WANTED
FOR 1ST APRIL, FOR A LONGER PERIOD.
A DETACHED HOUSE in KOWLOON, with 4 to 5 Rooms and Tennis Ground or Garden.
Particulars to
S. S.,
c/o Hongkong Telegraph Office,
Hongkong, 18th February, 1896.

Today's Advertisements.

PACIFIC MAIL STEAMSHIP COMPANY.
NOTICE.

CONSIGNEES OF CARGO per Steamship "PERU."

The above Steamer having arrived, Consignees of Cargo are hereby requested to send in their Bills of Lading for countersignature, and to take immediate delivery of their Goods from along-side.
Cargo impeding the discharge of the Vessel will be landed and stored at Consignee's risk and expense.

J. S. VAN BUREN, Agent.
Hongkong, 18th February, 1896.

DOUGLAS STEAMSHIP COMPANY, LIMITED.
FOR SWATOW.

THE Company's Chartered Steamship

"COSMOPOLIT,"
Captain Holtz, will be despatched for the above Port TO-MORROW, the 19th instant, at 9 A.M.

For Freight or Passage, apply to DOUGLAS LAFRAIK & Co., General Managers.
Hongkong, 18th February, 1896.

FOR SHANGHAI.
THE Steamship

"LYEEMOON,"
Captain G. Heusermann, will be despatched for the above Port ON FRIDAY, the 21st instant, at 4 P.M.

For Freight or Passage, apply to SIEMSEN & Co.,
Hongkong, 18th February, 1896.

FOR SAN FRANCISCO.
THE 100 A. I. British Ship

"QUEEN ELIZABETH,"
Falcon, Master, will load here for the above Port, and will have quick despatches.
For Freight, apply to SHEWAN & Co.,
Hongkong, 18th February, 1896.

